

# Let's LEARN about the California Gold Rush!



## 2015/2016 School Programs at Columbia State Historic Park



The staff, volunteers, and concessionaires at Columbia State Historic Park offer a variety of opportunities for school children to have hands-on experiences to augment classroom learning about the California Gold Rush. Over 15,000 4<sup>th</sup> grade students attend presentations at Columbia State Historic Park each year.

School groups are welcome to visit the park at any time for self-guided tours, and the Park's concessionaires offer many activities for school groups. In addition, park staff and volunteers offer three different formal programs, aimed at the 4<sup>th</sup>-grade audience. These programs meet California State curriculum standards for fourth grade social studies content as well as Common Core standards.

### **GOLD TREK**

Gold Trek is a unique program offered just five Thursdays each spring. The program begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. and takes approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours.

#### **2016 Dates:**

March 10, 17, 31

April 7 & 14

Teachers prepare students for the Gold Trek using the online Teacher's Guide which will be revised this year. In their classrooms, students make hardtack and journals and prepare a list of supplies to "purchase" as gold seekers when they arrive in the Park to begin their Gold Trek.

This program is designed to replicate the experiences that many young gold seekers faced as they travelled from Stockton to the diggings in search of gold.

Along the route to the gold fields, the argonauts encounter charlatans, merchants, ferry crossings, and opportunities to make critical decisions that impact their ability to arrive at the diggings ready to work.

The cost is \$3.50 per student. Reservations are made online, on a first-come-first-served basis, at [www.friendsofcolumbiashp.com](http://www.friendsofcolumbiashp.com), beginning September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

## **SCHOOL HOUSE LIVING HISTORY** **PROGRAM AND TOWN TOUR**

The one-hour **SCHOOL HOUSE** program is conducted in the 1861 historic brick school house by a costumed school teacher using the methods and tools of the 1861 classroom. Lessons in history, spelling, reading, and mathematics are included. Students use slate boards and chalk and discover what school was like for students during the Gold Rush.

The one-hour Columbia Gold Rush **TOWN TOUR** program, conducted by park staff, includes the role of miners and merchants in the development of Gold Rush towns, fire and water issues, town construction methods, and travel routes of the time.

The **SCHOOL HOUSE** and **TOWN TOUR** programs may be reserved individually or together. The cost for each program is \$30. Reservations are made online, on a first-come-first-served basis, at [www.friendsofcolumbiashp.com](http://www.friendsofcolumbiashp.com), beginning September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

**Program start times beginning the 2015/2016 school year are 10:00am, 11:15am, 12:30pm, and 1:45pm. Programs are available Wednesdays and Thursdays from October 1-February 14, and Monday-Thursday February 15-June 1.**

## **COLUMBIA DIGGIN'S TENT TOWN** **EDUCATION DAYS**

**2016 Dates: Thursday, May 19, and Friday, May 20**

For this annual living history event, docents and staff recreate an early tent town to demonstrate the daily life of Gold Rush mining camps. Special educational programs for 4<sup>th</sup> graders are offered on the Thursday and Friday of Columbia Diggins Tent Town. Students tour the Diggins camp and interact with characters from 1852. The dates for 2016 are May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.

The cost is \$5.00 per student, which includes \$3.00 in Eagles for purchasing goods, food or services in the Diggins camp, giving students an opportunity to interact in the mercantile economy of the camp. Reservations are made online, on a first-come-first-served basis, at [www.friendsofcolumbiashp.com](http://www.friendsofcolumbiashp.com), beginning September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

---

For more information about any of our programs, please visit [www.parks.ca.gov/columbia](http://www.parks.ca.gov/columbia), email [schoolgroupscolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:schoolgroupscolumbia@gmail.com) or call the park office at (209) 588-9128.

We look forward to seeing you this school season at  
Columbia State Historic Park!